

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-17 are amended. Claims 4 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 18-21 are newly added. No new matter is introduced by these amendments and their entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter.

B. Multiple Dependency

Claim 15 was unexamined because it is a multiple dependent claim that depends from another multiple dependent claim. Claim 15 has been amended accordingly. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and examine this claim.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 14 has been amended accordingly. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 14.

D. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 7,028,154 to Reeves. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Reeves does not teach each and every feature of amended claim 1. Specifically, Reeves does not teach or suggest "a DMA controller configured to communicate with a host computer and to allow the host computer to program the DMA controller to perform a direct memory transfer between the NVRAM and the host computer;" as recited in claim 1.

Reeves is directed toward "systems and methods for backup of data in a redundant data storage system." Reeves, Abstract. The system includes a host computer 135 connected to a disk controller system 160 having a control processor 340 and NVRAM 350. Reeves, FIG. 3. However, Reeves does not teach a "a DMA controller configured to . . . allow the host computer to program the DMA controller to perform a direct memory transfer between the NVRAM and the host computer," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Reeves does not teach each and every element of claim 1.

Claim 5, 18-21 depend from claim 1 and are thus patentable over Reeves for at least the same reasons with respect to claim 1, and further in view of its own distinguishing features. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner pass claims 1, 5, and 18-21 to allowance.

E. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-13, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reeves. Claims 2-4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reeves in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,970 to Wang. Claim 4 is cancelled, thereby rendering its rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to claims 2, 3, 8-14, 16, and 17.

Claims 2, 3, 8-14, 16, and 17 depend from claim 1 and are thus patentable over Reeves for at least the same reasons with respect to claim 1, and further view of their own distinguishing features.

Wang does not cure the deficiencies of Reeves with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Reeves and Wang, alone or in combination, for at least the reasons provided above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner pass claims 2, 3, 8-14, 16, and 17 to allowance.

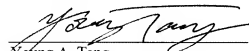
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 19-1853. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: July 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Young A. Tang
Registration No.: 55,665

SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
12275 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: 858 720 8900
Facsimile: 858 509 3691